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COMIDEASTFOR

USMTM AIR FORCE SECTION USMTM ARMY SECTION

DEPT PASS TO: See list on page five.

FROM : Amembassy JIDDA

DATE: December 9, 1964

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 48 (for the week ending December 6)

REF :

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NGThacher, Charge d'Affaires a.i. *WJW*

Clearance:

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POLITICAL/ECONOMIC

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3. Saudi Government Attitude Towards Congo. An Embassy officer reviewed the question of the Congo atrocities with the Foreign Ministry's Director of Western Affairs Muhammad CHARARA on December 5, with particular reference to Algeria's reported initiatives on the Congo. Charara confirmed that Algerian Foreign Minister BOUTEFLIKA had held talks with King Faysal but did not know the content of these discussions. He stated, however, that Saudi Arabia was well aware that Algeria was seeking to interpret the US-Belgian rescue

operations

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operations in the Congo to fit BEN BELLA's own aspirations for African leadership. Charara stated that he believed the humanitarian nature of the rescue mission was fully comprehended by the Saudi authorities.

The Belgian Charge d'Affaires has informed us that his talks with Foreign Ministry personnel elicited similar assurances that the Saudis understood the nature of the Communist support for rebels in the Congo and that local press attacks on the Stanleyville operations (see below) did not necessarily represent the Saudi Government viewpoint. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Comment: If Bouteflika did in fact discuss the Congo with Faysal, we very much doubt that the King would have given him any grounds to believe that the Saudis would support whatever the Algerians may be planning in order to make further anti-Western political capital out of the Congo hostage rescue. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

4. Chase Manhattan Boycott Problem

Comment: As previously reported the Saudi attitude towards Chase is favorable though it is doubtful SAG will take any vigorous initiatives with Libya or Morocco prior to the conference. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. Congressional Visit to Jidda. Two members of the House of Representatives visited Jidda briefly December 5-6 in the course of their annual training as members of the United States Naval Reserve. They were Captain Robert T. STAFFORD (R-Vt.) and LCDR Robert F. ELLSWORTH (R-Kansas). The Congressmen arrived in Jidda aboard the USS ZELLARS, then flew to Kuwait the following day to join the staff of COMIDEASTFOR. While in Jidda they received a general briefing on the situation in Saudi Arabia from the Charge and other Embassy officers. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

1. Visit of USS ZELLARS to Jidda. The USS ZELLARS (DD-777), attached to COMIDEASTFOR, paid a routine visit to Jidda December 5-7. The Commanding Officer, Commander L. J. MARSHALL, called on the Governor of Jidda, the Mayor, and the Saudi Army Garrison Commander. He and his staff also received a

briefing

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briefing from the Charge and the USAIRA/Jidda. Officers and members of the crew were entertained by members of the local American community. (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Congo. After a short lull following the initial hostile reaction to the Stanleyville rescue operation, the press on December 1 briefly resumed its criticism of the Anglo-Belgian operation and of the TSHOMBE Government in Leopoldville. A cartoon appeared in al-Madina showing Tshombe standing on the skulls of Africans and saying, "I am Tshombe, the Liberator of Congo from the Congolese!" Sulaiman QADHI's commentary in al-Bilad the next day termed the Stanleyville action "open aggression against the principals of freedom in the world" that takes the world back to the time of "the Law of the Jungle." "Rasid" in al-Madina accused Tshombe, in his meeting with French President DE GAULLE, of offering France a share in the wealth of the Congo to overcome French objections to the Stanleyville operation. Only one writer, Yaqub JABER in an-Nadwa, even professed to see both sides of the Congo situation. Jaber feels that Tshombe should be replaced by a more moderate Prime Minister who could rally the various factions and elements in the Congo around the central government. While admitting that the Stanleyville revolt is leftist beyond a doubt, Jaber nevertheless argues that its leaders should have been given a chance to prove themselves non-Communist. If they do prove to be Communist, the writer suggested, hopefully, "it is certain that the African countries themselves would oppose (the revolt)." Translations of USIS and wire service items giving details of rebel atrocities in Stanleyville have been published locally but without comment. It does appear however that they may be having an effect since hostile commentary has disappeared during the past few days, perhaps indicating growth of a more sober appreciation of the issues involved and second thoughts about the initial reflex action criticizing the US and Belgium for their performance of this humanitarian rescue mission. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment:

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2. Congo. A few Saudi commentators continue to attack the US - Belgian rescue operation in the Congo. An-Nadwa's writers in particular have helped to keep this issue alive in the press. Abd al-Aziz al-MU'MINAH, in a two-part editorial, charged that "Western imperialists" are exploiting the incidents in the Congo to depict the Congolese rebels as bandits who receive their orders from outside. Mu'minah commented that the "imperialist invasion" of Stanleyville reflects on the liberation movement in Africa since this action might be repeated in other parts of Africa such as Angola and Mozambique where Africans are fighting the white man for their freedom. Mu'minah issued a strong appeal for all African countries to send volunteers--and even regular troops--to support nationalist movements fighting imperialism and to protect independent African countries from imperialist pressures. "Arabi," writing in the same paper, took a more moderate view. He suggested that if the West stopped helping TSHOMBE, the Chinese Communists desisted from aiding the rebels, and the Congo were left to the Congolese, then the whole mess there would somehow sort itself out. A third commentator for an-Nadwa praised the Sudanese authorities for their "non-aligned" policy towards the "imperialist dispute" in the Congo. In al-Madina, Abd Allah QAR'AWI summed up a full-page background article on the Congo with the pessimistic observation that things there are going from bad to worse, a state of affairs he blames on imperialism's refusal to leave any country "before blood has cleaned out the last of its traces." (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The Mu'minah commentary is probably the sharpest attack on the Stanleyville operation that has yet appeared in the Saudi press.

[As reported in Weeka No. 48, the attitude of the Saudi Government itself toward the Stanleyville affair is more sympathetic to the humanitarian aims of the rescue operation. (CONFIDENTIAL)]

3. Article 19. Although the press has given routine news coverage of the US - USSR efforts in New York to reach a solution to the impasse over the Article 19 dispute, only one editorial appeared during the week. Yaqub JABER in an-Nadwa criticized as impractical the Afro-Asian suggestion that the financing of UN peace-keeping activities be put on a voluntary basis. Jaber noted the important role which the UN had played in helping to maintain world

peace

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peace. He urged that the future of the UN not be subject to political maneuvers and disputes but that the international organization be left free to find solutions for problems brought to it without being subjected to indirect pressures that might cripple its activities. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Hollywood on the Blacklist? Although there are no licensed public movie theaters in Saudi Arabia, the allegedly corrupting influence of Hollywood came under attack by al-Madina's pseudonymous and frequently anti-American commentator, "Rasid." "Rasid" calls for an Arab boycott of Hollywood products since the U.S. movie industry has not only produced pro-Zionist films (such as Exodus and The Ten Commandments) but now has begun to bring out films with anti-Arab propaganda. "Rasid" specifically criticized the film, John Goldfarb - Won't You Please Come Home? for its portrayal of an Arab shaikh trying to bribe an American athletic team. The next day a cartoon in the same paper carried forward the same theme. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: So far al-Madina's campaign to boycott Hollywood products has brought no response from other Saudi papers whose editorialists may be less frequent cinema-goers than the mysterious "Rasid." (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:

Brooks Wrampelmeier

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Second Secretary of Embassy

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